

## HONORING MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE ON HIS 250TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2007*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on September 6, 1757, 250 years ago today, a Frenchman named Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert Du Motier was born. This young man, who would later be known as Marquis de Lafayette, had a profound influence on the formation of our country and on Western democratic fundamentals of freedom and human rights.

As a lifelong resident of Lafayette County, Missouri, I was pleased to draft legislation earlier this year to mark the 250th anniversary of Marquis de Lafayette's birth. The House of Representatives approved my bill on May 22, 2007, honoring, as Americans have done time and again, Lafayette's role in our nation's history.

On July 7, 2007, the French Embassy's Military Attaché, Major General Jean-Luc Delon, traveled to my hometown of Lexington, Lafayette County, Missouri, and participated in a public ceremony honoring Marquis de Lafayette. It was a distinct honor and privilege to have a representative of the French government in Missouri to discuss Lafayette's life and the important bilateral friendship he helped establish between the United States and France.

More than any one person, Marquis de Lafayette symbolizes the assistance American colonists received from Europe in the struggle for independence from Great Britain. As we celebrate his 250th birthday, I am hopeful that all Americans will take a moment to remember his legacy on the United States.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2007*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, September 5, 2007, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 850: yes. On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Rollcall No. 851: yes. On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Rollcall No. 852: yes. On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Rollcall No. 853: yes. On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO HAROLD HIRSCH

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2007*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Harold "Harry" Hirsch, a veteran of World War II, for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal.

On June 6, 1944 the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

Harry served as a Seaman in the United States Coast Guard Reserve. On June 6, 1944, he landed on Omaha Beach as part of the Normandy invasion and spent 4 hours attending to the wounded by bringing them on board the U.S.S. Bayfield which was serving as an acting hospital ship. For his heroism and valor, Harry was awarded the American Campaign Medal, Freedom Medal, European African-Middle Eastern Service Medal, and the American Combat Ribbon.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Harold Hirsch for his heroic service in the United States Coast Guard Reserve. His dedication to this country in the theater of war is truly exemplary. I commend the sacrifices he has made to protect our freedoms and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his service. I applaud Harold Hirsch for his successes and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2007*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, September 4, 2007, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 847: Yes. On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Rollcall No. 848: Yes. On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Rollcall No. 849: No. On motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 2669.

## RECOGNIZING NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS' DAY

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2007*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Grandparents Day on September 9. In particular, I want to recognize those grandparents that have taken on the extraordinary task of raising their grandchildren. There is no more valuable contribution that any individual can make to our country than raising children in a loving home. The fact that grandparents all over the country do this despite financial and other hardships is worthy of the highest praise.

Nationwide, approximately 2.5 million children are being raised by their grandparents because their parents are unable to care for them. In Alameda County, the area of California that I represent, over 11,000 grandparents are responsible for meeting the basic

needs of their grandchildren. Without their grandparents, many of these children would end up in foster care placements usually without contact with their siblings or the support of their extended family.

Grandparents can provide the stable homes that allow children to grow and thrive. Unfortunately, many grandparents are not financially able to take on care of their grandchildren, despite their willingness to do so. The Federal Government has a responsibility to provide the resources willing grandparents need to care for their grandchildren. Our failure to do so will mean that more children enter the foster care system, are moved from place to place, and lose their family and community connections.

In the interest of full disclosure, I must state that I am the proud grandfather of eight.

President Carter created a National Grandparents Day in 1978. Nearly 30 years later grandparents still deserve our highest recognition, but they also deserve our support and assistance.

## TAIWAN'S APPLICATION FOR ENTRY INTO THE UNITED NATIONS

**HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2007*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I support Taiwan's application for United Nations membership. Since 1971, Taiwan has had no representation in the United Nations. Its 23 million people have been deprived of their fundamental human rights. It is now time to remedy this situation.

The United Nations has persistently rejected Taiwan's application on the basis of U.N. Resolution 2758 passed in October 1971. The resolution claims that Taiwan is part of the PRC and, therefore, Taiwan's representation in the United Nations would serve no purpose. This argument is flawed since it fails to recognize the fact that Taiwan is a sovereign government with its own national flag, constitution, armed forces and is recognized by more than 20 independent nations. Even more importantly the people of Taiwan have authorized their leader, President Chen Shui-bian to express to the world the desire of Taiwan to belong to this important world body.

Madam Speaker, the people on the island of Taiwan are able and willing to contribute to the United Nations and to world peace, justice, and prosperity. Let us give Taiwan our support in its bid to be a member of the United Nations.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 6, 2007*

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 817, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 818, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 819, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 820, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 821, I would have voted